

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained therein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 13 was objected to as containing a typographical error. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot as Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-158551. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 calls for a step of pressing a light transmitting layer precursor with a flat surface of a master plate to disperse a light transmitting layer precursor over a plurality of lenses formed on a microlens substrate and a step of releasing the master plate from the light transmitting layer so that the light transmitting

layer includes a substantially flat surface. See Specification at pg. 6, Ins. 9-16 and Figures 1(A) and 1(B). In other words, the present invention discloses a master plate having a substantially flat surface operable to engage a light transmitting layer precursor to disperse the precursor over a plurality of lenses formed on a microlens substrate. See Specification at pg. 6, Ins. 12-16 and Figures 1(A) and 1(B). In this manner, the master plate of the present invention is operable to form a light transmitting layer precursor having a substantially flat surface upon removal of the master plate. See Figure 1(B).

The JP 2000-158551 reference ("JP '551") fails to teach such a relationship. Rather, JP '551 teaches forming a resin (13) having a laminated thin plate (14) disposed thereon. See JP "551 at Paragraph [0015]. The laminated thin plate is irradiated with ultraviolet rays while being pressed by a transparent thick plate (15) to cure the resin and form a microlens substrate (17). See JP '551 at Paragraphs [0015] and [0016] and Fig. 2. In this manner, JP '551 fails to teach pressing a light transmitting layer precursor with a flat surface of a master plate to disperse a light transmitting layer precursor over a plurality of lenses. Furthermore, JP '551 fails to teach forming a light transmitting layer having a substantially flat surface upon removal of a master plate.

Because JP '551 fails to teach pressing a light transmitting layer precursor with a flat surface of a master plate to disperse a light transmitting layer precursor over a plurality of lenses, and further, because JP '551 fails to teach forming a light transmitting layer having a substantially flat surface upon removal of a master plate, Applicants respectfully submit that JP '551 fails to teach each and every element of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well

as Claims 3 and 5-10, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-158551 in view of JP 11-326603. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, are believed to be in a condition for allowance in light of the remarks contained above. Specifically, JP '551 fails to teach pressing a light transmitting layer precursor with a flat surface of a master plate to disperse a light transmitting layer precursor over a plurality of lenses or forming a light transmitting layer having a substantially flat surface upon removal of a master plate, as previously discussed. Because the JP 11-326603 reference ("JP '603") fails to cure these deficiencies on JP '551, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-11, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of Claim 12.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct 30, 2003

By: 

G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGG/BEW/MHS